Journal of British Studies

Annual Editors' Report for NACBS: October 2003

Transition to York:

The JBS editorial office moved to York University, Toronto in July 2003. Old files were sent to the NACBS archives in Washington; only current files and recent rejections were delivered to Toronto. Apart from one small delay at Canadian Customs, the boxes arrived safely and the transition was effected smoothly. The new editorial assistant at Toronto is Linda Pygiel, a mature graduate student working on her dissertation with Stephen Brooke. She is a former executive secretary and is settling in well.

Submissions:

In the last year (October 2002-September 2003) we have had 69 submissions of which 25 were rejected by the editors without sending them to readers. This is a slight fall from last year [79 submissions, 29 rejected outright], but not one with which NACBS should be concerned. The quality of many submissions is good and we have more than enough fine articles to take us to July 2005 when it is proposed that **JBS** and **Albion** should merge. In fact the editors have already sketched out a tentative schedule of every issue to January 2005 on the basis of the already revised and accepted articles. Since we are tentatively committed to bringing out another special issue in April 2005, our problem is not a lack of good submissions but a genuine surfeit as we approach the merger. To date we have five or six submissions, in various stages of revision, which we would likely accept but cannot publish under the old format. This signals the need to discuss our projected inflow of submissions and editorial policy with Michael Moore of **Albion.** While we do not wish to discourage submissions, we also have to consider to degree to which we might want to commit future editors to accepted articles and review essays.

In terms of coverage, the Journal is able to balance contributions from the early modern period to the twentieth century in its issues, but continues to have difficulty soliciting and accepting articles on medieval subjects. We have had a few submissions in the medieval area, however, more this year than last, and we shall be publishing one by Sara Butler, "The Law as a Weapon in Marital Disputes: Evidence from the Late Medieval Court of Chancery" in the July 2004 issue.

In Volume 42, 2003, for those who want the numbers, we published, in addition to a roundtable on a book on nineteenth-century British/imperial history, four articles in the early modern period, three in the eighteenth century, three in the nineteenth, and four in the twentieth.

Future numbers of the Journal:

The October 2003 issue, which is in the very final stages of production, is devoted to imperial themes. It features a roundtable on Catherine Hall's *Civilising Subjects: Metropole and Colony in the English Imagination, 1830-1867* with comments by Simon Gikandi, Thomas Holt, Philippa Levine, and a response by Catherine Hall. It also includes the following articles: Ken MacMillan, "Sovereignty 'More Plainly Described': Early English Maps of North America, 1580-1625"; Jessica Harland-Jacobs, "All in the Family: Freemasonry and the British Empire in the Mid-Nineteenth Century"; Juanita De Barros, " 'Spreading Sanitary Enlightenment': Race, Identity, and the Emergence of a Creole Medical Profession in British Guiana."

The January issue of volume 43, as mentioned in our last report, is organized by Miles Ogborn and Frank Mort on the subject of spatial practices in the metropolis. Entitled "Transforming the City, c. 1730-1960" it includes articles by Miles Ogborn, Frank Mort, Christopher Otter, Lynda Nead, and David Gilbert.

The April 2004 issue will include the following:
Nathan Johnstone, "The Protestant Devil: the Experience of Temptation in Early Modern England"; John Barrell, "Coffee-House Politicians," a discussion of public and private in the context of sedition trials of the 1790s; and Lara Kriegel, "Culture and the Copy: Calico, Capitalism and the Copyright of Designs in Early Victorian Britain." There will also be review articles on religious thought of the late sixteenth and seventeenth century by Paul Seaver, on eighteenth-century crime by Robert Shoemaker, and Victorian/Edwardian journalism by Mark Hampton.

The projected July and October 2004 issues include articles on medieval marital disputes, early modern perceptions of self, Catholicism and the 1569 Northern rebellion, princely debt and public credit in late Georgian Britain, eighteenth-century uses of smell, the Cordelier Club's appropriation of English republicanism, the British Churches and European Integration, and an essay on social history and the "two cultures" controversy.

Special Issues

In addition to a special issue on metropolitan space for January 2004, we are also planning to publish one in the spring of 2005 on masculinities from 1500 to the mid-twentieth century. This is organised by Karen Harvey and will likely include essays by Alex Shepard, Karen Harvey, Michele Cohen, John Tosh, and Michael Roper. The group organized a symposium on this subject at the University of Sussex on 19 September 2003. We have abstracts of their papers and expect to have the submissions by January 2004.

Respectfully submitted,

James Epstein and Nick Rogers